

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed July 11, 2008 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Claims 30-33, 44-49, and 56-59 are rejected. Claims 50-55 are objected to. Claims 30, 50 and 56 have been amended. For at least the following reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Interview August 12, 2008

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of the telephone conference on August 12, 2008. The independent claims as amended were discussed with regard to the cited references. Specifically the Examiner indicated that the proposed claims appeared to include allowable subject matter.

Claim Objections

Claim 50 is objected to for informalities. The Applicant's have amended the claim to address the objection and respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 50-55 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the objections set forth in the Office Action. The Applicants have amended the claims to address the objection and, accordingly, request that the claims be allowed.

Claim Rejections

Claims 30-33, 44-45, and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaiser (U.S. Patent No. 6,060,996) in view of Cameron (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0051499) and Fattouche et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,192,068) (hereinafter "Fattouche"). Claims 46-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaiser in view of Cameron and Fattouche and further in view of Chadwick (U.S. Patent No. 5,168,271). Claims 56-59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaiser in view of Cameron

and Fattouche and further in view of Gaskill et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,713,808) (hereinafter "Gaskill").

Claims 50-55 were indicated to include allowable subject matter. Independent Claims 30 and 56 were amended to incorporate the allowable features of Claims 50-55. For at least this reason, Claims 30 and 56 is proposed to be allowable. Claims 31-33, 44-49 and 57-59 are proposed to be allowable as they depend from a valid base claim.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicants at the telephone number provided below.

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Respectfully submitted,
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